

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/AU03/00053

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup>: C23F 3/06, C23G 1/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC<sup>7</sup> AS ABOVE

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
Derwent WPI: IPC<sup>7</sup> as above and +Fluor+ and +passivat+ and hydrofluoric acid

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 38983X/21 Class M12, JP 51-041639 (Kobe Steel KK) 8 April 1976 Abstract	1 - 7, 11 - 15, 18 - 20
A	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 84-289020/47, Class M12, DD 211811 A (Veb Galvanotech Lei) 25 July 1984 Abstract	1 - 7, 11 - 15, 18 - 20

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

☒ See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
4 April 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report 14 APR 2003

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## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos :  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2. ☐ Claims Nos :  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
  
3. ☐ Claims Nos :  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See Supplementary Sheet.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:  
Claims 1 to 7, 11 to 15 and 18 to 20

**Remark on Protest** ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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## Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

### Continuation of Box No: II

Claims 1 to 7, 11 to 15 and 18 to 20 are directed to a method of treating zirconium metal (or sponge) to depassivate the metal.

Claims 8 to 10 are directed to a zirconium sponge consisting of an agglomerate of zirconium particles having a surface layer containing fluorine containing compounds.

Claim 16 is directed to a magnesium - zirconium master alloy having a zirconium particle size of 90% less than 5  $\mu$ m.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

International application No.

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This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member	
JP	51041639	NONE	
DD	211811	DE	3009778
END OF ANNEX			